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Man in the News

A DRIVING executive, keen administrator, naval aviator, aircraft carrier skipper and molder and goader of the team that put the Polaris missile in the U. S. arsenal two years ahead of schedule was named to head the Central Intelligence Agency last week.

Vice Adm. William Francis Raborn, Jr., (Ret.) was plucked by President Johnson from tussling with management problems at California's Aerojet General Corp., a subsidiary of the General Tire and Rubber Co., to head up the sensitive and often controversial CIA in gathering and evaluating intelligence and applying it to concrete situations around the world.

Texas-born and Oklahoma-reared, "Red" Raborn was graduated from the Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1928 in the lower half of his class.

He went into battleships, destroyers and then into naval air, following a course steered by many naval officers of the era.

However, he carried with him a strong interest in naval research and development — in gunnery, aerial depth charges and finally into guided missiles and the acme of his career, the Polaris and the Polaris submarine.

Along the way, he skippered the carrier Hancock in the Second World War. He won a Silver Star for his work in leading damage control units after a Japanese suicide plane hit the vessel.

While commanding the carrier Bennington off Rhode Island in May, 1954, he hit the saddest point of his career when a series of explosions killed 116 men while the carrier launched aircraft.

But the team he recruited and led as Special Project Of-



William F. Raborn

ficer for the Secretary of the Navy was to bring him enormous prestige and numberless honors in its creation of the Polaris missile, now such an indispensable feature of the U. S. nuclear deterrent.

Raborn's task force also is credited with the development of the near-miraculous navigation and launching gear necessary to successful use of the Polaris.

In addition, a management technique known as PERT, or "Program Evaluation Review Technique," which he employed in his naval management days, is now widely copied in industry as an efficiency aid. The admiral now takes over one of the most important and sensitive official posts in the world. On him and his forces the United States will depend for the intelligence which is the supreme determinant of U.S. policy in many delicate and potentially lethal international situations.